



A continuing project:  
Bringing state resources to places  
across Iowa



Great Places is a Vilsack-Pederson Administration initiative designed to promote bold thought, innovation and entrepreneurship to cultivate the unique and authentic qualities that make places in Iowa so special. The initiative turns the state into a new kind of partner with Iowans—demystifying government, combining resources for impact and delivering results.



So far in the initiative, Iowa has deemed Sioux City, Clinton and Coon Rapids Iowa Great Places Pilot Projects.

The Pilot projects are already in the process of receiving state assistance to rediscover their strengths and turn their vision into reality. The next 6 Great Places will continue this process, so that their place will indeed become a Great Place.

As Great Places proceeds, the goal is that any willing communities can stay involved in the Great Places program to further their vision and grow local support—eventually to gain recognition as an Iowa Great Place.





## **Great Places have:**

### **A Unique Sense of Place**

An Iowa Great Place possesses a sense of place that values historical roots while embracing a shared vision which welcomes, includes and involves both natives and newcomers and promotes itself as a great place.

### **Engaging Experiences**

An Iowa Great Place provides and supports authentic, credible and varied opportunities for individual and community expression, interaction and common experiences.

### **A Rich, Diverse Social Fabric**

An Iowa Great Place promotes and encourages social interaction—formal and informal—throughout the community or place, with equal opportunity for all people to participate.

### **A Vital, Creative Economy**

An Iowa Great Place contains a balanced, growing, transformative mix of rewarding jobs and sustaining capital.

### **A Pleasing Environment**

An Iowa Great Place offers clean, healthy and accessible natural and built environments that enhance the quality of life.

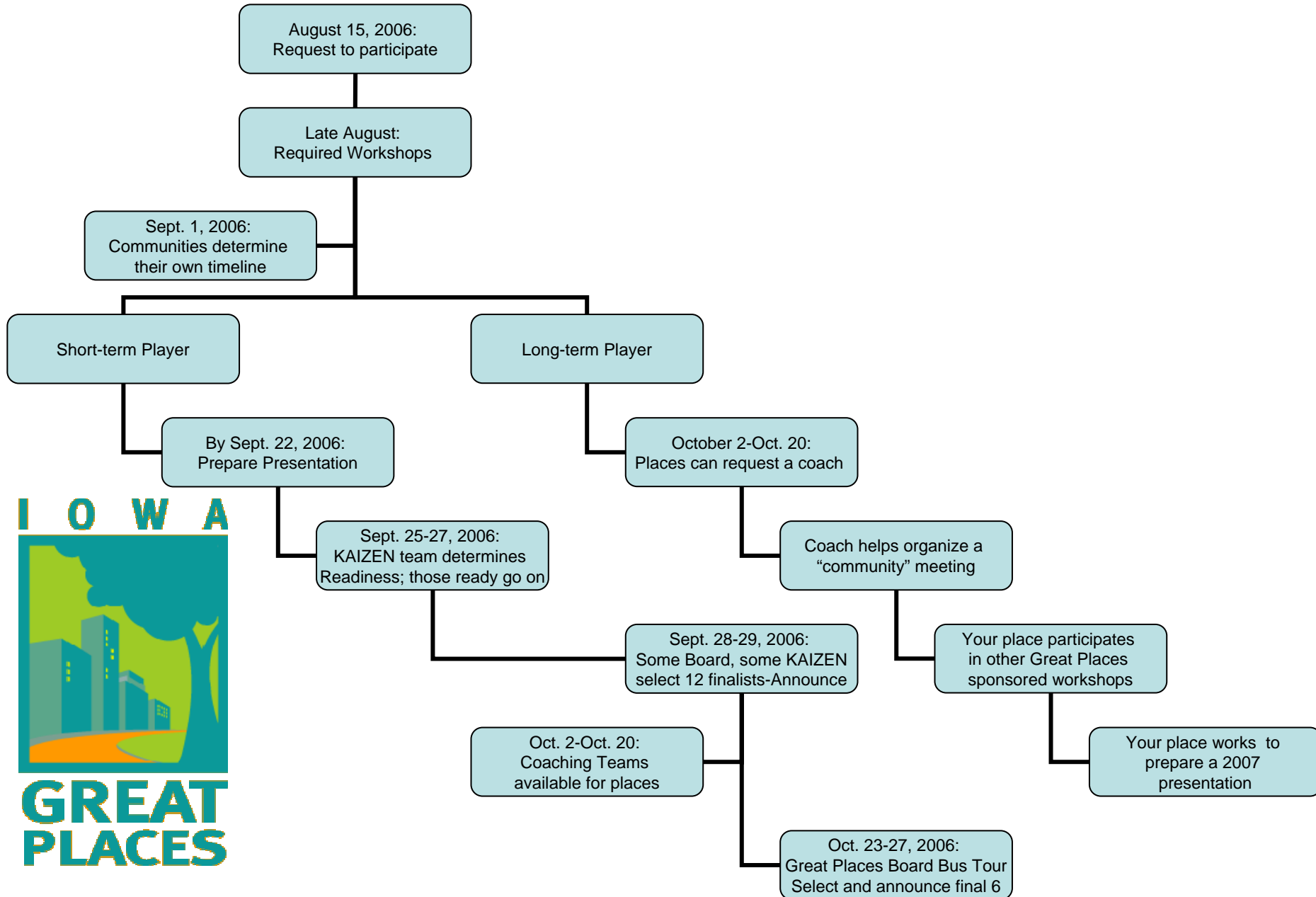
### **A Strong Foundation**

An Iowa Great Place contains infrastructure that is available, accessible and responsive to *everyone*—the entire social fabric.

### **A Creative Culture**

An Iowa Great Place displays a shared attitude of optimism that welcomes new ideas, based on a diverse and inclusive cultural mosaic.

# As we move forward:



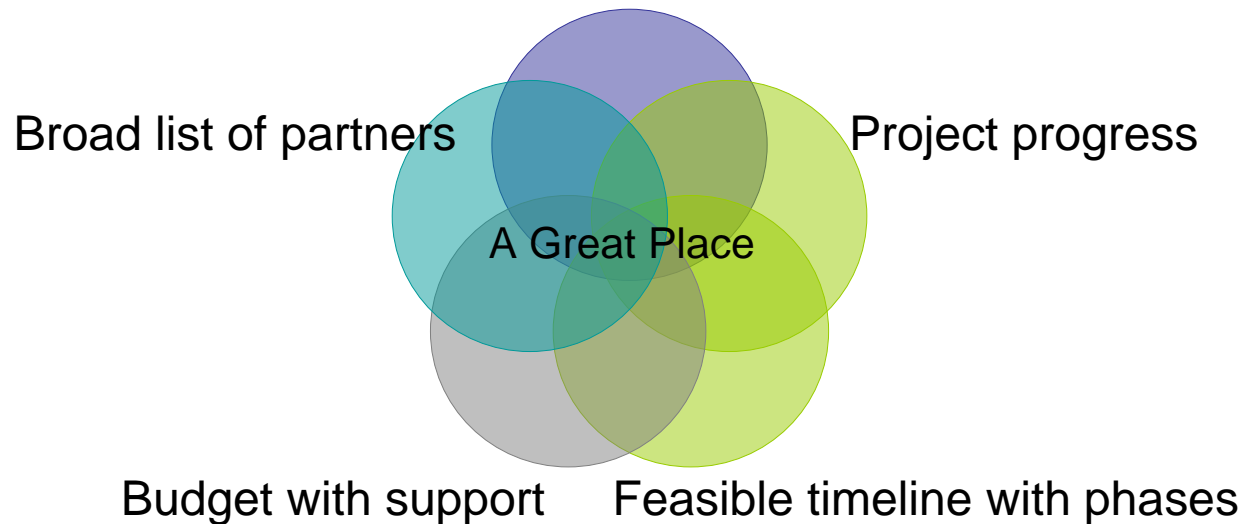


# SHORT-TERM PLAYERS

To submit a 2006 Great Places Proposal, each short-term player has to agree that as an inclusive community, it has the vision, resources, organization and partners to make its place shine with some state aid. The proposal should highlight these assets both visually and logistically.

**A short-term player must be able to demonstrate:**

A community involved in the process



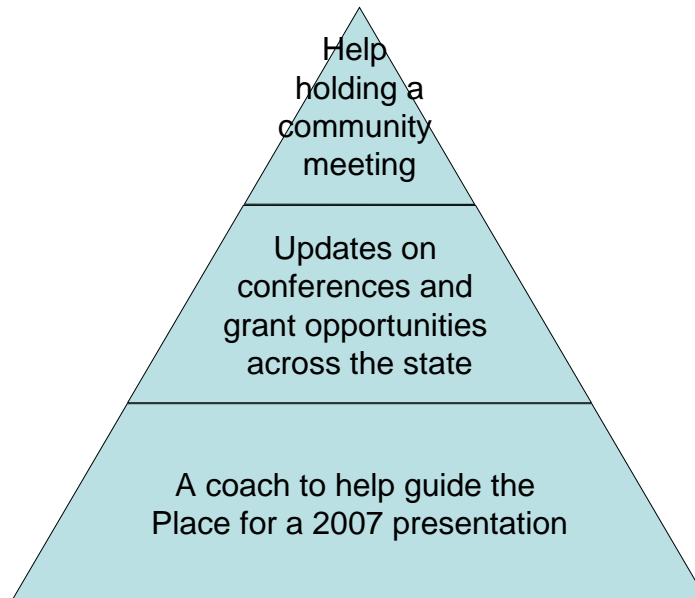


# LONG-TERM PLAYERS

If a Place wants state guidance to

- Develop a vision
- Involve the entire population in creating its future
- Identify potential resources

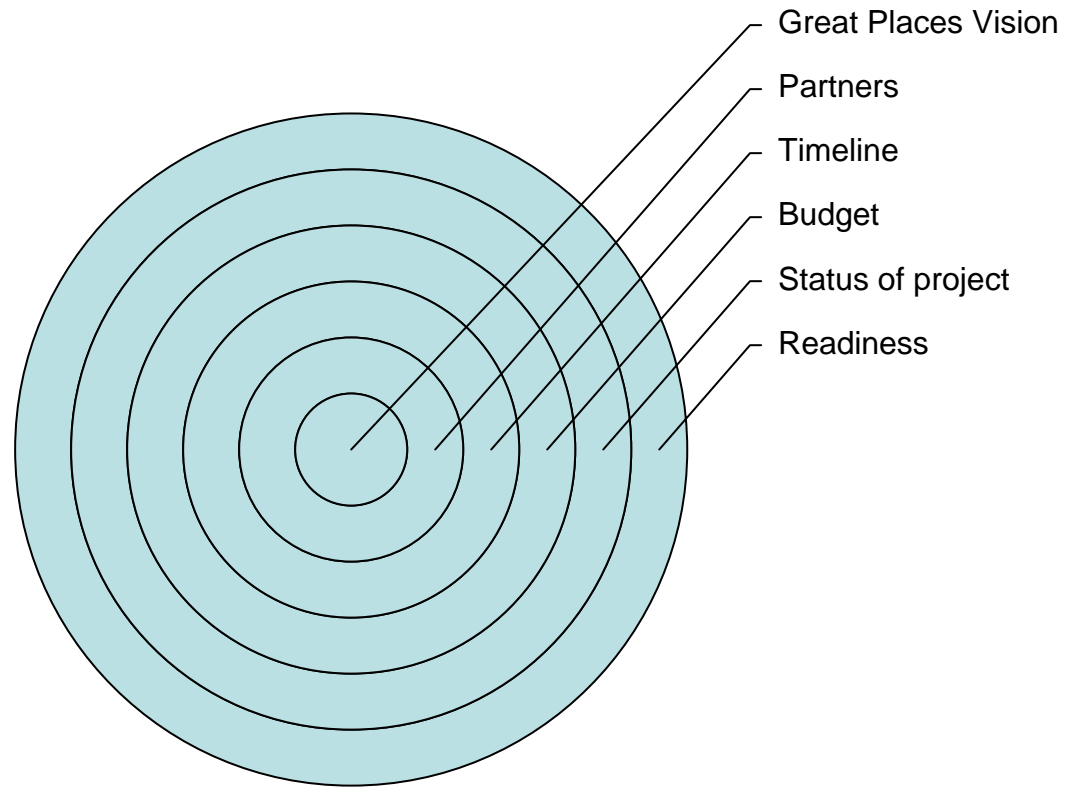
**Long-term players will receive assistance for a future proposal:**





# If you decide you're a short-term player

The Place will have to prepare a proposal that details every level of readiness. In up to 10 pages and 25 PowerPoint slides, the Place must include the following:







Those who determine they are a Short-Term Player will submit their presentation by Sept. 22, 2006. It should include answers questions:

1. What is your creative, innovative plan to help move your place forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?



# Status of Project

2. For those who have been part of the Great Places presentations in the past, what have you completed since the presentation? How has your project changed?
3. For those who have not been involved in the process before, what have you done to help aid your vision?



## Timeline with phases

4. Do your project components have realistic timelines that fit together into a larger picture of completion?
5. There is no completion deadline, but are there components that can realistically be completed in the one to two year timeline?
6. Does your timeline match your budget?



# Budget

7. What are your realistic budget predictions and how do they match the timeline given?
8. Do you have Resolutions of Financial Support from local, private and corporate partners?
9. What state resources can you identify that would help the project?



## Partners

10. How did your community come together to build its vision?
11. Who has been involved?
12. Who will be involved?
13. How have you worked to ensure inclusiveness?



# Community—The People

14. Do community governmental leaders buy into this vision?
15. How does this vision fit with the people's/leader's goals?
16. Do you have examples of community togetherness, either in completed projects or on-going endeavors?



# Presentations

Again, the project must include:

- Partners
- Timeline
- Budget
- Status
- Community—the people

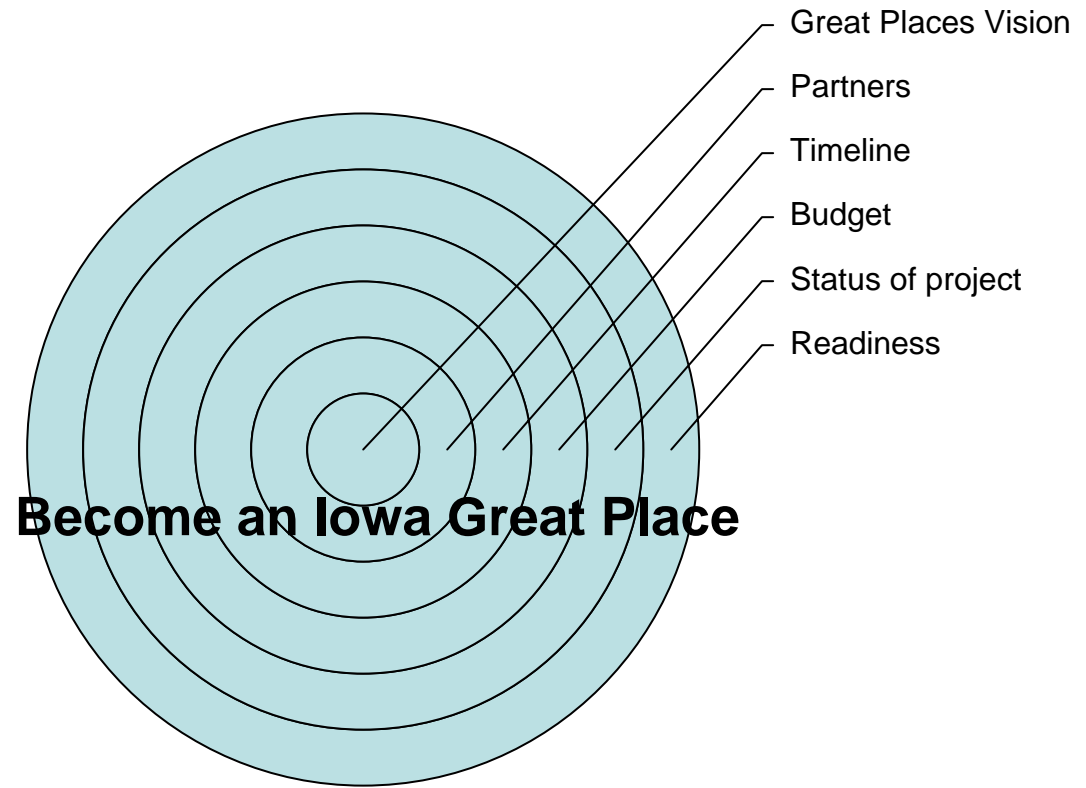
The presentation can include:

- A Proposal of up to 20 written pages
- A PowerPoint presentation of up to 20 slides



# If you decide you're a long-term player

The Place will have another year to work to build on its strengths with the guidance of its coach. It can create a vision, and from there gain the elements that make it great.







Iowa's Great Places Pilot Program has shown the state's leaders that Iowans have the creativity, vision and ability to turn their place into something more.

Every place has something unique—something that can attract families to live and work in the area. As a continuing program, Great Places has the honor of working with each of you—no matter who is deemed a Great Place—to better your area. Please let us know what we can continue to help with in the future.

Thank you!

